

8-16-04

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Attorney Docket No. 01327/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Junji SATO et al
Serial No. : 09/872,420
Filed : June 4, 2001
For : IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS
Art Unit : 2851
Examiner : GARCIA, GABRIEL I

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a European Search Report dated July 1, 2004, issued in the counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of the cited publications; and
- (3) Form PTO/SB/08A. It is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Said communication is in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

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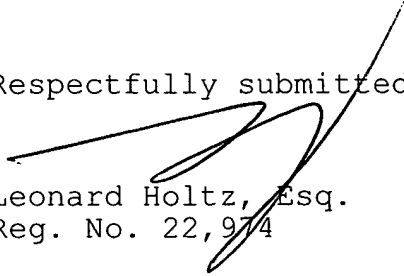
In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e) (1)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of July 1, 2004. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

It is respectfully requested that the attached publications be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,


Leonard Holtz, Esq.
Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: August 13, 2004

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT			Application Number		09/872,420	
			Filing Date		June 4, 2001	
			First Named Inventor		Junji SATO	
			Group Art Unit		2851	
			Examiner Name		Garcia, Gabriel I.	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		01327/LH

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
	A	6,078,404	A	NATSUME et al	06-20-2000	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits*	Cite No ¹	Offc ³	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
	B	EP	0 461 920	A2	XEROX CORPORATION	12-18-1991		
	C	EP	0 606 131	A1	XEROX CORPORATION	07-13-1994		
	D	EP	0 697 648	A2	XEROX CORPORATION	02-21-1996		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: August 13, 2004